

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 25, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-27 remain pending in the application. Claims 25 and 28 have been amended. Claims 7, 8, 19-21, 24, and 26 have been withdrawn. Claims 5, 10, and 16 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Each of the Examiner's rejections is discussed below.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-4, 6, 9, 11-15, 17, 18, 22, and 23 have been allowed.

Section 102

Claims 25 and 27

Claims 25 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,728,055 to Sebastian ("Sebastian"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sebastian fails to disclose or make obvious a bladder having at least one longitudinal chamber, a plurality of transverse chambers, and a plurality of gaps, with each gap **being free of material used to make the transverse chambers** and being disposed between adjacent transverse chambers and serving to space adjacent transverse chambers from one another, and having a longitudinal axis extending substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of the transverse apertures.

Claim 25 has been amended to more clearly indicate that which had been claimed, namely, that the gaps between the transverse chambers are truly gaps, and not just some of the material positioned between the transverse chambers.

There are no such gaps free of material used to make the transverse chambers in the bladder of Sebastian between the chambers. Bladder 10 extends completely between each of the chambers. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 28

Claim 28 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,883,053 to Pritchard et al. ("Pritchard"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Pritchard fails to disclose or make obvious a bladder having first and second longitudinal chambers; a plurality of transverse chambers; and a plurality of elongate transverse apertures, each **transverse aperture** disposed between adjacent transverse chambers and **having a longitudinal axis extending substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of the transverse chambers**. Pritchard has no such transverse apertures between compartments 22. Only seals 24 are provided between compartments 22. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Accordingly, all pending claims are believed to be in proper form for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested at this time. Examination of withdrawn claims 7, 8, 19-21, and 24 is respectfully requested at this time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to **Deposit Account No. 19-0733**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 25, 2007

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